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Sarasota Opera Receives \$50,000 Grant from Selby Foundation for Piano Purchase

SARASOTA, FL— Sarasota Opera has been awarded a \$50,000 traditional grant for Spring 2025 from The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation to assist in the purchase of seven new pianos, including three Boston baby grand pianos and four upright pianos.

The funding will directly support the acquisition of two of the three new baby grand pianos. These new instruments will replace those most damaged by humidity and intense, two-decades-long usage. The new Boston pianos, designed by Steinway & Sons, will enhance the quality of instruments used in rehearsals, training, and [community outreach and youth education programs](#) at Sarasota Opera.

Sarasota Opera has a long-standing relationship with The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation, established in 1955. In recent years, the foundation has funded the purchase of the [Malabar costume collection](#) and supported the construction of artists' housing, known as the Steinwachs Artist Residences.

“Sarasota Opera is grateful for the long-time support of the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation. The instruments this grant will fund are important to creating the wonderful opera productions for which the company has become renowned,” said Richard Russell, General Director of Sarasota Opera.

The Selby Foundation's mission is to invest in people through academic scholarships and support capital projects for local organizations. For more information, visit [Sarasota Opera](#) and [The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation](#).

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About Sarasota Opera

Sarasota Opera is entering its 67th season of bringing world-class opera to Florida's Gulf Coast, and celebrating 100 years of the historic Sarasota Opera House. The company was launched in 1960 in the historic 320-seat Asolo Theater on the grounds of Sarasota's Ringling Museum of Art. In 1984, the company moved into the former A.B. Edwards Theater — now the Sarasota Opera House. Since then, the company has gained an international reputation as one of the leading regional opera companies in the U.S. through initiatives such as the Masterworks Revival Series and the Verdi Cycle. The company's Sarasota Youth Opera is the most comprehensive youth opera program in the U.S. The Sarasota Opera House, which underwent a \$20 million renovation and rehabilitation in 2007, has been called "one of America's finest venues for opera" by Musical America. Since 1983, the company has been under the artistic leadership of Victor DeRenzi and the administrative leadership of General Director Richard Russell since 2012. Sarasota Opera is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts. Programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues. Sarasota Opera • 61 N. Pineapple Avenue • Sarasota, FL 34236 • (941) 366-8450 • SarasotaOpera.org